

STATE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

VITAL STATISTICS, 1946 - (PRELIMINARY).

The following preliminary particulars for 1946 are published subject to slight revision, with particulars for 1945 in parentheses.

BIRTHS - 15,813 (14,033). The number of births registered had fallen irregularly from 12,904 in 1914 to 11,492 in 1927, from which year there was an almost continuous fall to 8,270 in 1935, but from 1935 there has been an increase each year. The total for 1946 shows an increase of 1,780 on 1945 and of 7,543 on 1935. The record number of births registered in earlier years was 12,904 in 1914, and this has now been exceeded by 2,909. However it must be remembered that the population in 1914 was only 445,000 compared with 636,000 for 1946. The 1914 births were equal to 28.97 per 1,000 of the population and it would have required 18,400 births for 1946 to represent a similar rate. The rate had fallen to 14.14 per 1,000 of the population in 1935, increasing to 22.31 in 1945 and 24.85 in 1946. The 1946 rate is the highest since 1918.

The births for the first four months of 1946 were lower than for the same period in 1945, but from May to December they totalled 1,593 being equivalent to an annual rate of 17,389 and for the last three months they totalled 4,831 equivalent to an annual of 19,324.

When it is noted that there were 58,225 births during the years 1922-26, 43,061 during 1932-36, and 67,580 during 1942-46, it will be realised that problems will arise in future in such circumstances as numbers of children attending school and numbers leaving to commence employment.

SEXES OF BIRTHS - The number of boys compared with 100 girls born during each of the last few years have been:- 1942 - 106.52; 1943 - 106.17; 1944 - 104.38; 1945 - 104.41 and 1946 - 105.26.

ADOPTIONS - The number of adoptions has increased rapidly. Ten years ago the number was around 100, increasing to 218 in 1942, 20 in 1943, 355 in 1944, 317 in 1945 and 455 in 1946.

DEATHS - 6,461 (6,049) were registered during the year an increase of 412 on the previous year. Commencing from 1921 there had been a general, though irregular fall in the death rate until 1933 when the rate of 8.44 was the lowest on record. From that year there had been an irregular rise to the rate of 10.99 in 1942 since when the rates have been 10.53; 9.62; 9.62 and 10.15. At this date it is not possible to give details of the number of deaths from the various causes for 1946.

INFANTILE MORTALITY - The deaths of children under 1 year totalled 428 an increase of 34 on the total of 394 for 1945. The infantile death rate represents the number of deaths of children under 1 year per 1,000 births. During the last 70 years there has been a remarkable drop in the infantile death rate, - from a rate of 150 per 1,000 births in the period 1870 - 1880 to a rate of approximately 30 in recent years. In 1945, the South Australian rate fell to 28.08 but Tasmania had an even lower rate of 27.48. For 1946, however, the preliminary rate for South Australia is lower again, being only 27.07.

Deaths of infants from principal causes during 1946 (1945 in parentheses) were - Diarrhoea etc. 19 (11). Congenital Malformations (57). Premature Births 150 (140). Congenital Debility 11 (10). Injury at Birth 45 (46). Other Diseases peculiar to early infancy (41). Cerebro-spinal Meningitis 1 (-). Meningitis 4 (-). Whooping Cough 2 (9). Diphtheria 1 (1). Measles 3 (-). Convulsions - (3). Bronchitis 1 (2). Pneumonia 39 (31). Hernia etc. 4 (4). Diseases of the ear etc. 10 (7) and all other causes 36 (32).

There were 133 (119) deaths of children under 1 day, 175 (178) of children from 1 day to 1 month, and 120 (97) of those from 1 month but under 1 year. Although the figures vary from year to year, the greatest improvement compared with earlier years has been in respect to deaths of children from 1 month to 1 year old.

STILL BIRTHS. These are not included in either Births or Deaths, and number 416 (338).

MARRIAGES. 6,700 (5,321), an increase of 1,379. Marriages in the Registration Office totalled 498 (382). The number of marriages had been just over 4,500 in 1926 and 1927, but fell to 3,069 in the depression year of 1931 from which the number increased yearly and reached 5,489 in 1938. The figures from 1939 to 1946 have been uniformly high though varying, the successive figures being 5,670; 6,950; 6,855; 8,129; 6,263; 6,019; 5,321 and 6,700. A rather surprising feature is that the mean marriage age has varied by only decimal points since first recorded in 1908. In 1931 when there were only 3,069 marriages the mean age for males was 28.67 and for females 25.14 and yet in 1942 when there were 8,129 marriages the mean was 28.65 for males and 25.63 for females.

Christmas and Easter Marriages. It had been the custom for large numbers of marriages to be celebrated at Christmas and Easter. There was the record number for any one day of 245 on the Saturday before Christmas in 1941 and 525 during the 8 day period Saturday to Saturday at Christmas time that year. Also, there were 392 during Easter week in 1942. Since then there have not been the large numbers at Christmas and Easter, although there were increases for 1946 with 164 on the Saturday before Christmas and 302 for the 8 day period.

SUMMARY RETURN - The following return shows the number of births, deaths and marriages and the rate per 1,000 of mean population and the number of infantile deaths and the rate per 1,000 births.

Period	Births		Marriages		Deaths			
					Total		Infants	
	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate
Mean								
1920-24	11,857	23.43	4,326	8.55	4,901	9.68	693	58.45
1925-29	11,301	20.16	4,225	7.54	5,034	8.98	526	46.54
1930-34	8,989	15.54	3,660	6.33	5,001	8.65	342	38.05
1935-39	9,039	15.32	5,305	8.99	5,430	9.20	297	32.85
1940-44	11,743	19.16	6,843	11.17	6,235	10.17	406	34.57
Year								
1942	11,278	18.46	8,129	13.31	6,712	10.99	448	39.72
1943	13,145	21.36	6,263	10.18	6,482	10.53	482	36.67
1944	13,311	21.40	6,019	9.68	5,984	9.62	387	29.07
1945	14,033	22.31	5,321	8.46	6,049	9.62	394	28.08
1946	15,813	24.85	6,700	10.53	6,461	10.15	428	27.07

A. W. BOWDEN,

GOVERNMENT STATIST.

Statistical Office,

ADELAIDE.

30th January, 1947